

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DJIBOU 00209 191429Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 H-01 INR-10
IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 SP-02 OC-06 CTME-00 PRS-00
SS-15 USIE-00 USSS-00 SY-05 FAA-00 WRDE-00 MCT-01
COME-00 TRSE-00 PM-05 /102 W

-----101236 191434Z /42

O 191330Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 666

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SANA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI NIACT IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DJIBOUTI 209

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJ: HIJACKED AIRCRAFT--SITREP 5 191200Z FEB 78

1. AIRCRAFT DEPARTED DJIBOUTI 1210Z. FORMAL NOTIFICATION BY
ETHIOPIAN CIVIL AUTHORITIES THAT AIRSPACE CLOSED TO CYPRUS AIR
FLT CAUSED ROUTING OVER PDRY AIRSPACE (WITHOUT ASKING THEIR
PERMISSION) AND THREADING NEEDLE OF AIR PASSAGE BETWEEN PERIM
ISLAND (PDRY) AND ASSAB (ETHIOPIA), BOTH INTERDICTED ZONES.

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2. DRAMA WILL NOW BE PLAYED OUT AT CYPRUS OR ELSEWHERE. FINAL
TERMS DEMANDED BY AIR PIRATES WERE THAT THEY BE GREETED BY
CYPRUS PRESIDENT AND MAN (DR. K--NAME UNCLEAR TO US) TRUSTED BY
THEM. IT APPEARS THAT SOME RANSOM MAY BE PAID.

3. SPECIAL CREDIT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO TWO PILOTS AND OTHER AIR

CREW WHO MAINTAINED COURAGE AND COOLNESS THROUGHOUT.

4. DJIBOUTI OFFICIALS EXTREMELY VEXED THAT AIRCRAFT SLIPPED INTO DJIBOUTI ON MAY DAY CALL JUST ON HEELS AIRFRANCE REGUALR FLIGHT. MININT INDICATED THAT HE WOULD HAVE CLOSED AIRPORT HAD THERE BEEN SUFFICIENT ADVANCE WARNING EVEN IF THIS WOULD HAVE MEANT DITCHING AIRCRAFT IN GULF OF ADEN. FUTURE HIJACKERS SHOULD TAKE DJIBOUTI NEGATIVE ATTITUDE INTO ACCOUNT.

5. EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE SPECIAL ANTI HIJACK SQUAD WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN SENT DJIBOUTI THIS EVENING HAD HIJACKERS NOT MOVED ON. THEIR ABILITY REACT ON HOLIDAYS DBUIOUSLY LIMITED BY INABILITY HAVE DUTY OFFICER WATCH OVER TELEX MACHINE, WHICH TOOK SOME TIME TO ACTIVATE.

6. WE WILL HAVE FURTHER ASSESSMENT ON PROBLEM PREVENTING FUTURE HIJACK HAVEN IN DJIBOUTI AFTER DISCUSSING MATTER WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES.
CLARKE

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NNN

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